

Fourth College renamed Earl Warren College

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The Regents of the University of California, meeting in San Francisco, today approved the naming of UC San Diego's Fourth College after three-term Governor of California and former Chief Justice of the United States Earl Warren.

According to Provost M. Lea Rudee, the decision to honor Chief Justice Warren followed extensive study by a Fourth College student/faculty/staff committee chaired by college Dean Gary J. Frost, as well as informal discussions with members of the surrounding community.

Rudee said Warren's name was selected because of his half-century of public service, both to the state and to the nation, and his lifelong association with the University of California. Warren put himself through college and law school at the university (B.L., 1912; J.D., 1914) and served as an ex-officio UC regent for 11 years during his gubernatorial terms. An honorary degree from UC is among his numerous honors and awards.

Warren served as district attorney of Alameda County (1925-1939) and attorney general of California (1939-1942.)

He was elected to three terms as governor of California, an office he held from 1942 to 1953 when he was chosen as Chief Justice by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. He remained in that post until 1969. His term on the United States Supreme Court, according to Los Angeles Times reviewer Robert Kirsch, commenting on Warren's recently published memoirs, may make Warren the "single most influential figure in social progress in America in this century."

The Warren Court, according to New York Times correspondent Anthony Lewis, if set the United States on a new basis in race relations, wiping out the legal basis for discrimination." The court, under Warren, stood for the rights of the individual and the equality of all Americans under the constitution.

Under Chief Justice Warren, the Supreme Court elaborated a doctrine of fairness in such areas as criminal justice, voting rights, legislative districting, employment, housing, transportation and education. Warren, wrote Alan Barth in the Saturday Review, "contributed a unifying influence and significant leadership" to a court that abounded in powerful personalities, a court which "revitalized democracy in America."

Warren was born in Los Angeles on March 19, 1891, the son of a poor Norwegian immigrant. Raised by parents with strict and simple moral values, while Alameda County district attorney, the young lawyer was unrelenting in his pursuit of racketeers.

In his memoirs, Warren recalls that, as governor, he had to see that government services were provided every Monday to what amounted to a "new city of 10,000." Schooling had to be provided for 500 new young Californians every week.

During this era of lightning growth, Warren developed the state Department of Mental Hygiene and was the person most responsible for encouraging the building of mental health institutions throughout the state. He had a strong belief in public hearings to ensure that all sides in a case were represented before he signed any new legislation. He also led a reform of the prison system in California by establishing the Board of Corrections and the Prisoner Rehabilitation Act.

Regental approval of the naming of UC San Diego's fourth college as Earl Warren College sets in motion plans for a formal convocation to be held during the 1977-78 academic year. According to college officials, Warren's family, members of the UC Board of Regents, state and university officials, associate justices who served on the Warren Court and distinguished scholars will be invited to participate. -more-

Fourth College admitted its first students in the fall of 1974. During its June 1977 commencement exercises, some 80 graduates received degrees. In the fall of 1977, about 1700 students are expected to be enrolled.

The college gives special attention to career-oriented and pre-professional preparation. Students are encouraged to pursue field work projects pertinent to their program areas.

The college offers a number of programs and courses which examine the interaction of technological, scientific, economic, social and political factors which affect decision-making on local and national issues.

The newly named Earl Warren College occupies buildings on what has been called the Matthews campus of UC San Diego (after its original tenant, Camp Matthews.) The area will now be known as Warren campus.

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